



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] RE: Opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas:1 message

Cathy Walling <cathy.a.walling@gmail.com>

Sun, Jun 17, 2018 at 10:18 AM

To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

I am writing to express my deep, deep concern for this possible action!

I am particularly concerned about the following areas and impacts that oil and gas activities would have on the Arctic Refuge:

1. Disruption/ destruction to the calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd and the resultant loss of sustenance for the Gwich'in People.
2. Destruction of the last fully intact Arctic Ecosystem, once disrupted cannot be repaired to its original state.
3. Impacts on Wild and Scenic Rivers that run through this Refuge.
4. Any oil/gas spill will wreak further damage and destruction to this fragile arctic land.
5. The amount of land impacted by the overall footprint of this project would be huge!

I am concerned about these issues because:

1. This action of drilling on the Gwich'in people's sacred land, the place where life begins, is a furthering of colonization that needs to stop! We need to respect these traditional custodians of the land and their right to the subsistence lifestyle they have lived for many generations. How are you respecting the Gwich'in people with these actions?
2. One this pristine wilderness is disrupted; we have lost a global land treasure that will not be able to be repaired. There are many other places to drill for oil and gas, and this place needs to be preserved! How can you preserve the wilderness designation of this area with this action?
3. We need to be transitioning off of fossil fuels, so again, pursuing this National Wildlife Refuge for these short term gains, is very wrong with any long term view.
4. Wild and Scenic Rivers demand special protections, and how can you assure they will not be impacted by these actions?
5. The history of oil spill clean up has not been good. In the Arctic that ability to do so is even more difficult. How can you possibly assure that there will not be a spill? How can you assure that a spill would be able to be cleaned up completely in such a remote Arctic landscape?
6. In looking at the operation at Prudhoe Bay, and the extensive impact on the land, how can you assert the same would not be experienced in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge?

In addition, I am concerned about the process in general that is being rushed through. More hearings need to be held outside of Alaska as well as within the state. With 20 Alaska Native languages, having the materials translated into Alaska Native languages is important to the many people this will impact. At the very minimum, materials need to be translated into Gwich'in and Inupiaq.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding how these various concerns will be addressed.

Respectfully submitted,

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